



*U.S. Department of Justice*

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**November 18, 2004**

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**PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS**

**FORMER FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARM POSSESSION**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE--**United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Resident Agent in Charge Cliff Ellston, and Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka announce that Richard Herschel, age 23, and formerly of Manchester, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court before United States District Court Judge Paul Barbadoro to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Herschel was previously convicted of burglary. The firearm offense is a felony and is punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment.

Herschel was arrested on September 6, 2003, after he was confronted in an apartment on Merrimack Street in Manchester by two New Hampshire Probation and Parole Officers. While in the apartment conducting a routine investigation, Officer Scott Harrington proceeded to check the bathroom. When Officer Harrington opened the door to the bathroom, Herschel, who was hiding in the shower stall, pointed a gun through the shower curtain. Officer Harrington immediately dropped to the floor, drew his service weapon, and commanded Herschel to drop the weapon. After several commands, Herschel dropped the gun and was taken into custody. Two other firearms were recovered from the shower stall. Two of the three guns were identified as stolen.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

The prosecution against Herschel, part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" (PSN) initiative, resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Manchester Police Department. Sentencing is scheduled for February 18, 2005. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark E. Howard.

